CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	Bedside Stungun
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1800622.034
Medium:	Text File
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	Not stated
Language:	English
Applicant:	Commissioner of Police
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	10 May 2019
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued
Date of notice of decision:	10 May 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

'Bedside Stungun' was submitted for classification on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, under s13(1)(ab) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The unrestricted availability of this publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. The document outlines how to make and use an electric shock device, which is intended to be used in self-defence in the case of a home invasion. The document also suggests another anti-social use of the device. Some electrical knowledge would be required to make and use the device safely and the document does outline the dangers involved. While the document does not appear to have criminal intent, there is serious risk of injury from following the instructions in this document, in both making the device described and using it on other people. Given that young people are still developing their cognitive abilities, including risk-assessment, it is not unreasonable to consider them as having a higher risk of causing serious harm to themselves or others should these documents be available to them. For these reasons, 'Bedside Stungun' is restricted to those aged 18 and over. This is a limit on the right to freedom of expression but it is reasonable and justified in order to prevent injury to the public good.